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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:31:32 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

April 14, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1791 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: EAID, PREL, PGOV, PHUM  
Captions: None  
Subject: TFIZ01: UAE RED CRESCENT SHIP FINALLY ARRIVES AT UMM  
QASR: LESSONS LEARNED  
Ref: None

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 01791

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: POL  
INFO: RSO AMB DCM ECON P/M

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT  
DRAFTED: ECON:CCRUMPLER  
CLEARED: ECON:TWILLIAMS; POL:STWILLIAMS; DAO:MWEAVER

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OO RUEHC RUCNRAQ RUEKJCS RUCAACC RHRMDAB RUMICEA  
RUEKJCS RUEHDE RUEHKU  
DE RUEHAD #1791/01 1041306  
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9417  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUMICEA/USCINCENT INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI PRIORITY 3039  
RUCAACC/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 0843

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001791

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IRAQ TASK FORCE, ALSO NEA/ARP, NEA/RA,  
PRM/ANE, AND IO/UNP  
KUWAIT FOR HOC

E.O. 12958: DECL 04/14/13  
TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [IZ](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: TFIZ01: UAE RED CRESCENT SHIP FINALLY  
ARRIVES AT UMM QASR: LESSONS LEARNED

REFS: ABU DHABI 1660 AND PREVIOUS

[1](#)1. (U) Classified by DCM Richard A. Albright for  
reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

[1](#)2. (C) Summary and comment: The UAE's much-heralded

shipment of 700 tons of humanitarian supplies arrived at Umm Qasr on April 11 -- the first water shipment to arrive via civilian vessel into that port since the war began. The political importance of this shipment was significant: both as a manifestation of the world's (and particularly the Arab world's) commitment to alleviate human suffering in Iraq, and -- for the domestic UAE audience -- as a demonstration of the UAE's effectiveness in promptly getting needed aid to its destination. This is certainly only the first of what will be many humanitarian shipments to Umm Qasr; we offer up our observations on lessons learned -- namely, the importance of coordination and flexibility all around -- for other posts which may be asked to facilitate such shipments.

¶3. (C) Following a reported March 25 attack on UAE Red Crescent workers traveling overland from Amman to Baghdad (reftel), the RCA decided to coordinate its next shipment of 700 tons of foodstuff, family first aid kits, four water tankers, two cargo trucks, an ambulance, and several passenger vehicles through the HOC via Embassy Abu Dhabi. Well aware of the unstable security situation in southern Iraq, UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff Shaykh Mohammed bin Zayid Al-Nahyan took over the coordination of the shipment from the RCA -- a sign of the high importance attached to this effort by the UAE leadership.

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Lesson One: Coordination With HOC, NAVCENT Essential  
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¶4. (C) From the beginning, Econoff alerted the HOC, CENTCOM (through USLO), and NAVCENT (through the DAO Naval Attache) that the UAEG, on behalf of the Red Crescent Authority was organizing a shipment of humanitarian supplies to Umm Qasr. NAVCENT and the HOC requested a number of documents from the Emiratis, including the specifics of the ship (including ship's name, flag, registry, and international call sign), ship's draft (draft in Umm Qasr is limited from 7.3 to 9.5 meters due to silt build-up and underwater obstacles), owner and agent of the ship, detailed crew and passenger manifests with full names and nationalities (plus passport information to facilitate clearances), and a detailed cargo manifest.

¶5. (C) Close coordination with NAVCENT was critical to the operation. Once the vessel was underway for Umm Qasr, NAVCENT was able to provide Post with updates on the location of the ship, and communicated to us what would be required of the ship's crew and the UAE delegation along the way. This line of communication helped us sensitize the ship's crew and passengers (including four journalists) to the thorough security checks and inspections that were likely to take place at the checkpoint and/or at the port.

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Lesson Two: Prepare For Last-Minute Changes  
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¶6. (C) Post forwarded to the HOC and NAVCENT all manifests and ship documentation 48 hours prior to the vessel's departure from Dubai. Due to last minute mechanical problems, the UAEG was required to find another ship willing to sail to Iraq in less than 24 hours. Last minute questions arose concerning the offloading capabilities of the vessel (currently, there is no power at Umm Qasr), the UAE delegates' plans to remain in Umm Qasr to distribute the supplies, and significant revisions to the crew manifest by the vessel owner -- which required NAVCENT to undertake additional security precautions.

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Lesson Four: Encourage Direct Contact With ICRC

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17. (C) Post relayed to the RCA that it would be responsible for the distribution of the items once the ship arrived in Iraq. Indeed, the RCA had insisted that its personnel alone would arrange the delivery of the relief shipment inside Iraq. Although the HOC provided contact information for the ICRC and the Kuwaiti Red Crescent to the RCA, it appears that the RCA did not finalize its distribution plans with its counterparts in Iraq, leading to delays in getting the aid to those who need it. We understand, however, that the HOC has assisted the UAE delegation in lashing up with the ICRC/Kuwaiti Red Crescent to facilitate distribution of the goods.

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All's Well That Ends Well  
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18. (C) We were impressed by the can-do attitude and flexibility exhibited by representatives in the HOC, who effortlessly managed eleventh hour changes in the vessel and its crew, and coordinated the shipment between the various branches of the Coalition forces. CFLCC and NAVCENT were similarly cooperative and helpful, promptly answering even the most arcane of questions. The head of the UAE delegation already has contacted Post directly and via the MFA to offer his thanks to all involved for facilitating the shipment (which has received stellar coverage in the local media), and noted specifically the professionalism and courtesy of the troops the UAE delegates encountered along the way. We second his thanks.

Wahba